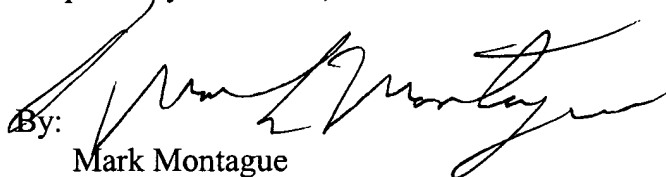


REMARKS

In response to the restriction requirement set forth in the office action, the applicants hereby elect claims 1-21 of Group I to be examined on their merits. Although claims 22-32 of Group II ; claims 33-36 of Group III; and claims 37-40 of Group IV are withdrawn from consideration herein, the applicants reserve the right to present these claims in one or more divisional applications. Claims 22-40 are canceled herein.

An early and favorable examination of Group I claims 1-21 are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

By: 
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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed: Commissioner of Patents P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on August 23, 2004

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The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Account No. 03-3415